

Message Text

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0182

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: CSCE AND WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION

REF: GENEVA 1898

1. IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON ALLIED APPROACH ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECTS OF CSCE, WE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO WORK REFERENCES TO THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS INTO HIGH-LEVEL PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE CSCE. SUCH REFERENCES COULD FIND A LOGICAL PLACE IN THE APPROACH SUGGESTED IN GENEVA 1898, TO THE EFFECT THAT CSCE IS A STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS WHOSE POTENTIAL REMAINS TO BE WORKED OUT IN PRACTISE. WE COULD REMIND THE WESTERN PUBLIC THAT THE EAST-WEST SECURITY SITUATION STILL CONTAINS DANGERS, THAT READINESS TO MOVE TO REDUCE

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THE EAST WEST MILITARY CONFRONTATION IS ONE OF THE

MOST REVEALING SPECIFIC TESTS OF WILLINGNESS TO PUT GENERAL PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICAL APPLICATION, AND THAT AFTER A YEAR AND A HALF OF NEGOTIATION IN VIENNA, THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET MADE ANY MOVES DEMONSTRATING A SERIOUS DESIRE TO REDUCE THAT CONFRONTATION ON ACCEPTABLE TERMS.

2. WE MIGHT MAKE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL POINTS:

A. BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THEIR SUBJECT MATTER, THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS ARE A KEY AREA WHERE ONE CAN REASONABLY LOOK FOR CONFIRMATION OR REFUTATION OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT CSCE MAY BE A TURNING POINT IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

B. CENTRAL EUROPE IS THE AREA OF THE WORLDS LARGEST CONFRONTATION OF MILITARY FORCES.

C. THE DIMENSIONS OF THIS CONFRONTATION CONTAIN A RISK OF CONFLICT.

D. THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ARE INTENDED TO REDUCE THAT CONFRONTATION AND INCREASE STABILITY AND SECURITY IN EUROPE.

E. THEREFORE, THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDE AN ARENA WHERE THE INTENTIONS OF THE SOVIET AND THEIR ALLIES REGARDING DETENTE CAN BE TESTED THROUGH EASTERN ACTIONS.

F. AFTER 18 MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA, THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES HAVE YET TO MAKE MOVES WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE POSITION.

G. NEVERTHE LESS, IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS, EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE REPEATEDLY INDICATED THAT PROGRESS IN CSCE WOULD IMPROVE THE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS.

H. IN COMING MONTHS, AS CSCE ENTERS ITS FINAL STAGES,
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AND THE DATE OF THE SUMMIT LEVEL CONCLUSION APPROACHES, THE WEST WILL LOOK FOR EVIDENCE THAT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS THE SOVIETS ARE COMMITTED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT POLITICAL DETENTE SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY MILITARY DETENTE.

I. THE CLEAREST TEST OF THIS COMMITMENT WILL BE WHETHER OR NOT THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES SHOW WILLINGNESS

TO MOVE IN VIENNA.

3. WE HOPE THIS APPROACH CAN BE WORKED INTO THE COMMUNIQUE
OF THE SPRING NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING.RESOR

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